

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05318 131959Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /098 W  
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R 131551Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1017  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAJAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5318

E.O.11652: XGDS-1, OAU.  
TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS  
SUBJECT: GOS REACTION TO OAU ACTIONS ON CANARIES, SAHARA

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1628 (NOTAL), ALGIERS 1684#(NOTAL)

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, THE FOREIGN  
MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR SUBSAHARAN AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL  
ASIA (CASSINELLO) SEEMED POTIMISTIC OVER THE CANARIES  
AND IN RESPECT OF SPANISH INTEREST IN THE SAHARAN SITUATIONS IN THE  
WAKE OF THE LIBREVILLE MEETING.

2. CANARIES. CASSINELLO WAS PLEASED THAT THE  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05318 131959Z

POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD PUT OFF RECONGINITION OF THE  
CANARIES LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MPAIAC) AND DISCARDED  
THE IDEA OF PROVINDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO IT  
(WHICH THE LIBERATION SUBCOMMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED).  
CASSINELLO FELT THE GOS COULD EASILY STALL A  
FACT FINDING MISSION UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT IN  
THE CANARIES (AS WELL AS OTHER SPANISH REGIONS)

OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY, IN A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL FRAME WORK SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE, PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE COUNTER TO CLAIMS OF COLONIZATION.

3. THE CANARIES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY IN AFRICA, CASSINELLO SAID. THERE IS NO ARGUMENT ABOUT THAT; BUT THE PEOPLE ARE NOT AFRICAN, SINCE THE FRENCH AND THE PORTUGUESE (BEFORE THE SPANISH) HAD REDUCED THE PRIGINAL POPULATION TO A HANDFUL, WHICH HAD LOND SINCE BEEN ASSIMILATED WITHOUT A TRACE BY THE SPANISH POPULATION. OAU MEMBERS, HOWEVER, PERSISTED IN EITHER IGNORING THE FACTS OR FAILING TO BE AWARE OF THEM.

4. SAHARA. CASSINELLO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LUSAKA SUMMIT MIGHT ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE, PARTICULARLY (HE SAID) IF THE ALGERIANS PRESSED HARD ON THE MATTER. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WAS INTERESTING THAT THE FORMAL CONVOCATION HAD REFERRED ONLY TO "THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAHRAQUI PEOPLE", WITH NO MENTION OF THE POLISARIO BY NAME, AND HAD REFERRED TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AS THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATING POWERS.

5. CASSINELLO SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSTOOD  
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PAGE 03 MADRID 05318 131959Z

THE IMPLICATION OF THE CHANGED SITUATION WITHIN SPAIN, WITH THE GOV RESPONSIBLE (TO AN AS YET UNDETERMINED DEGREE) EVEN IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT. GIVEN THE SUBSTANTIAL PRO-POLISARIO SENTIAMENT TO BE FOUND AMONG THE NEW PARLIAMENTARIANS, A SHIFT OF THE SPANISH POSITION TOWARD A MORE NETURAL OR BALANCED STANCE COULD BE IN THE OFFING. CASSINELLO WAS SURE, HOW- EVER, THAT SHIFT WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SERIOUSLY ALARM THE MOROCCANS.

6. CASSINELO SAID THE POLISARIO'S MORALE WAS "STAINLESS STEEL" WITH AN EXCELLENT CAPACITY FOR HARASSMENT AND IT ARMS SUPPLIES GROWING STEADILY. MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WERE ON THE DEFENSIVE. CASSINELLO FELT HOWEVER, THAT THE POLISARIO WOULD RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO TRY TO TOPPLE THE MAURITANIAN GOVT, WHICH IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO, BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD RISK BRINGING IN MOROCCO IN FORCE, AND THE POLUSARIO WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO HOLD OUT IN ENTRENCHED WARFARE. STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, SS, OAU  
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